

East defeats West in Army All-American Bowl

By Rich Lamance

Army News Service

SAN ANTONIO -- America's top high school athletes shared center stage with America's top Soldiers during the 2006 U.S. Army All-American Bowl high school all-star football game held in the Alamodome Jan. 7th.

East versus West players battled in front of a nationally televised audience and in front of 31,565 fans, the largest in the Army's six-year history of hosting the event. The East won the contest 27 - 16.

During pre-game activities, 78 Soldiers, who were awarded either the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star or the Purple Heart, were announced to the audience along with the nation's top 78 high school players.

Soldiers attending medical advanced individual training at Fort Sam Houston marched onto the field to recite the Soldier's Creed, along with the U.S. Army Field Band, who provided a musical salute.

A group of 100 San Antonio delayed entry program recruits were given the oath of enlistment by Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody during a pre-game ceremony.

Two ROTC graduates were also commissioned by Gen. William Wallace, the commanding general of the Training and Doctrine Command. 2nd Lt. Chris Adams graduated with a master's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and 2nd Lt. Shannon Christian was commissioned after receiving a bachelor's degree from the same school.

Four Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division airborne assault school at Fort Campbell (Sgt. Jeremy Mitchell, Sgt. Mike Cortez, Staff Sgt. Ira Hutton and Staff Sgt. Warren Feaster) capped the pre-game ceremony by rappelling from the rafters of the Alamodome to present the game ball to the players.

Army Reserve Sgt. Chris J. Neiweem, a military policeman with the 814th Military Police Company in Arlington Heights, Ill., one of the Iraqi Freedom veterans honored before the game, believes the messages he and his fellow Soldiers articulate during the week are important ones.

"Our trip to San Antonio is a real celebration of courage from several different angles," Neiweem said. "We have competitive young athletes that represent the best in the country and we have Soldiers who have put it on the



Photos by Daren Reehl, Army News Service

Spc. Adam Butt, an Avenger crewman assigned to the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery at Fort Hood, goes over the details of the weapon system with 19-year old Matthew Carrasco from San Antonio during the Army-sponsored Fan Fiesta just outside the Alamodome in San Antonio before the start of the Army-sponsored "Army All-American Bowl" high school all-star football game. BELOW, A wide receiver from the West squad is forced out of bounds during the first quarter of the "Army All-American Bowl" high school all-star football game, pitting the best players in the country. The East team won the nationally televised contest 27-16 on Jan. 7 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

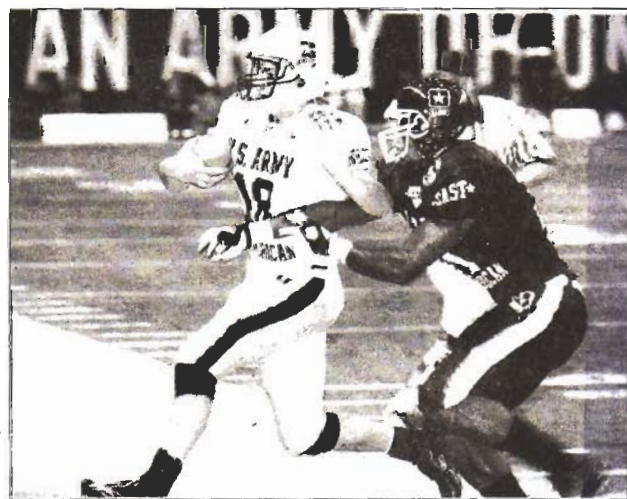
line for their country representing the best of the Army. It's kind of fitting having this contest in the city of the fighting spirit of those who fought in the Alamo.

"Both sides represent leadership and are role models to our communities and nation as a whole."

Sgt. 1st Class Shawn P. Caskin, an air defense platoon sergeant with Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery, at Fort Sill, Okla., believes that the greatness of our country is closely linked to the greatness of our Army.

"Americans need to realize that we would not be the great country we are today without having the best military in the world," said Caskin.

"To continue to have the freedoms and



liberties we enjoy, people must be willing to serve their country. I feel that it's important for our citizens to give back, and I think every young person should serve in some way."

For more information on the All American Bowl, go to www.army.mil/2006allamericanbowl/.